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Abstract of the national paper of Finland

1. Space plays an increasingly important role in Finnish society. Satellites and space-related methods are used as a tool for improving scientific knowledge, increasing the effectiveness of public sector services and developing new businesses.

2. Space activities are a part of Finland's overall science and technology policy. The research and development activities in the field of space contribute to an overall increase in scientific and technological expertise and know-how in Finland. In terms of industrial and technological development, space activities are expected to increase the technological competitiveness and diversification of Finnish industry. The exploitation of space-based applications, such as remote sensing, telecommunications and navigation has an increasingly important socio-economic impact, in addition to the prospects of generating new business based on space applications and services.

3. Space administration and funding matters in Finland are run in a decentralized fashion involving mainly the Technology Development Centre and the Academy of Finland, with the Finnish Space Committee acting as the overall coordinating body. The Committee, established in 1985, comprises representation from several key ministries as well as from industry, science and research, and from users of space applications.

4. Finland has been a full member of the European Space Agency (ESA) since 1995 and ESA forms the main international forum for Finnish space research and development activities. At present Finland participates in the ESA science, telecommunications and Earth observation programmes and the related technology research and development programmes. Moreover, in the field of space applications, Finland belongs to the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, the European Telecommunications Satellite Organization, the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization and the International Mobile Satellite Organization.

National objectives of space activities

5. At the request of the Council of State, the Finnish Space Committee revised the Finnish national strategy, which was published in March 1999[1] and is based on the following main national objectives:

[1] "Space Activities in Finland: National Strategy and Objectives", Ministry of Trade and Industry standing committee reports 1/1999 (ISBN 951-739-435-7).

(a) The internationally high level of Finnish space science will be maintained by participating in the key international collaborative scientific projects;

(b) The use of the emerging new methods of satellite remote sensing will be extended in the data collection and geographic information systems in the public sector. Commercialization will be further stimulated by increasing the outsourcing of the public sector services;

(c) Industrial competitiveness will be strengthened in the growth areas of satellite telecommunication;

(d) The development of new navigation and positioning applications will be stimulated. Participation in the GNSS-2 satellite navigation system development programme will be pursued;

(e) The competitiveness of the space industry will be strengthened with a view to expansion to markets outside the ESA area;

(f) In international research cooperation the emphasis will be on ESA and European Union (EU) programmes and on bilateral research activities with ESA and EU member States and the United States of America;

(g) National activities will support the expansion of the use of space technology and its applications, strengthening of technological competitiveness and utilization of international cooperative frameworks.

6. In view of the above national objectives, the estimated requirements for public funding of space activities, in millions of United States dollars, are as follows:

Year	*1998*	*1999*	*2005*[a]
Space science	9.5	9.6	12.9
Remote sensing	18.3	18.5	19.7
Satellite telecommunication	2.5	1.6	1.6
Satellite navigation and positioning	2.2	2.9	7.2
Space equipment and technology	7.2	7.2	7.7
European Space Agency fees	2.3	2.3	3.6
National regulation and administration	0.7	0.7	0.7
Total	**42.7**	**42.8**	**53.4**

[a]Estimates.

For further information, please contact:

Finnish Space Committee
Secretariat: Tekes Space Technology
P.O. Box 69
FIN-00101 Helsinki
Finland
Telephone: +(358)(10)5215855
Facsimile: +(358)(10)5215900
www.tekes.fi/space